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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry Kissinger

SUBJECT: Request from the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy for NIE 11-14, Warsaw Pact Forces for Operations in Eurasia

1. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy has asked us to provide them a copy of NIE 11-14 and any other information we have on the subject thereof for the use of the Committee staff in preparing a study on Soviet nonstrategic forces in Europe.

2. In compliance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 which provides that Government agencies "...shall furnish any information requested by the Joint Committee with respect to the activities or responsibilities of that agency in the field of atomic energy..." we have regularly provided the Committee with National Intelligence Estimates concerning atomic subjects.

3. We have also provided the Committee with selected NIEs on other topics when they contain information directly related to the field of atomic energy, such as Estimates dealing with the nuclear weapons

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4. We regard National Intelligence Estimates as documents prepared by the Director of Central Intelligence in his role as the President's foreign intelligence advisor for the use of the President,

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the National Security Council, and the policymaking elements of the Executive Branch. Therefore, we have provided no National Estimates to other congressional committees, with the one exception of certain Estimates relating to the Test Ban Treaty which were provided the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

5. It can be argued that providing NIE 11-14 is entirely consistent with the practice we have followed in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act. The subject matter of the Estimate is one on which we have testified before the Joint Committee, and we would have no reluctance to provide further information on this subject to the Joint Committee were it not in the form of a National Intelligence Estimate.

6. On the other hand, it can be argued that providing these NIEs to the Joint Committee may be used as a precedent to force the transmittal of other types of Estimates to other committees--specifically Estimates in the political field in which the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Foreign Affairs would have an interest.

7. In the present case, we believe the Estimate in question contains sufficient material on atomic matters to fall within the letter and spirit of the above-quoted provisions of the Atomic Energy Act. Therefore, if you have no objection, we propose to comply with the Committee's request.

Richard Helms
Director